



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 38

FORMULATED: January 2002

REVISED: May 2014, March 2011, July 2007

REVIEWED: May 2006, July 2005, November 2003

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN) to perform needle decompression for tension pneumothorax?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that needle decompression is within the role and scope of responsibilities of the RN with special education and training in emergent situations to relieve tension pneumothorax. This procedure should be in accordance with standards of the Emergency Nurses Association, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Heart Association, National Flight Nurses Association and the Air-Medical Crew National Standard Curriculum.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.